

Remarks

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 24, 29-34, 39-44, 72, 101-107, 144-150, 152-160, 168, 173-178, 183-188, 216, 245-251 and 288-306 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 7, 17-23, 25-28, 35-38, 45-71, 74-100, 108-143, 151, 161-167, 169-172, 179-182, 189-215, 218-244 and 252-287 have been cancelled, and new claims 291-306 have been added. Claims 73 and 217 were previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 145 are independent.

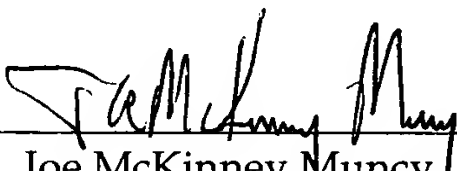
Some of the dependent claims hereby have been amended to simplify the overall claim structure and to reduce the number of claims so as to expedite prosecution. Regarding the prior art rejections of the claims as set forth in the Office Action dated February 7, 2005, independent claims 1 and 145 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) are patentable over the applied references for the reasons set forth in the Amendment filed on May 9, 2005. Accordingly, all the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Reg. No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Registration No. 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd.
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant